

Suggested Remarks
Gerardo Porta, OEDG
Launching of the DOJ Prosecutors' Manual and
the Administrative Case Management Manual
Coral Ballroom, Manila Pavilion Hotel
Ermita, Manila
August 21, 2008, 10:00 a.m.

Distinguished guests from the Philippine
Government (names to be supplied on site);

Our partners in development, friends, ladies
and gentlemen;

Magandang umaga po sa inyong lahat.

I am delighted to join you this morning at
the launching of the Department of Justice
Revised Prosecutors' Manual and the National
Prosecution Service Administrative Case
Management Manual.

The Department of Justice (DOJ) plays a vital role in Philippine democracy.

Mandated to uphold the rule of law, it is tasked with the very important job of ensuring that criminal justice is properly administered so that Filipinos will not lose their trust in the democratic institutions of the state.

Its work, therefore, supports good governance while having a very real impact on the lives of individuals. As Secretary Raul Gonzalez very eloquently put it, "the thrust of all our programs must be based on affirmative action for our less privileged because there can be no real social justice

in the land if it is not accompanied by proper administration of the criminal justice system."

It is for this reason that the United States Government, through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), is very pleased to have had the opportunity to support the revision of the Prosecutors' Manual and the drafting of the special sections on the prosecution of tax evasion and human rights cases.

We are also very happy to have provided technical assistance in the drafting of the Administrative Case Management Manual for the National Prosecution Service, which is

expected to improve the processing of complaints filed in the field offices.

We fully recognize that the manuals we are launching today are the products of the hard work of the prosecutors themselves, who participated actively and passionately, in the discussion of the different sections of the two manuals during the validation workshops. Such enthusiastic participation by the prosecutors can only confirm their genuine desire to strengthen the effectiveness of the DOJ and enhance public service.

We would like to commend, in particular, the technical working group which worked very

hard to ensure that the manuals will be finished on time and the administrative support provided by the DOJ Management Services Office.

Hopefully, the prosecutors will find the manuals useful in meeting the challenging task of ensuring an effective, speedy and compassionate administration of justice.

Once again, USAID extends its heartfelt congratulations to the Department of Justice for the successful launch of the manuals.

We also commend the good work of our Rule of Law Effectiveness Project, the Millennium Challenge Account Philippine Threshold Program Project, and the Strengthening Human

Rights Program of the Asia Foundation for
ensuring the completion of this activity.

Maraming salamat po at mabuhay tayong lahat!